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REMARKS

In an Office Action dated 20 March 2007, the pending claims 1-45 are subjected to a restriction requirement. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the application includes the following groups: (1) claims 1-29; (2) claims 30-37; (3) claims 38-42; (4) claim 43; and (5) claims 44-46. The Examiner further alleges that the application the following species: (A) figure 2; (B) figure 3; (C) figure 4; (D) figure 15; and (E) figure 16. The Examiner separately asserts that the groups and the species, respectively, are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In reply Applicant provisionally elects group (1) directed to claims 1-29, *with traverse*. Non-elected claims 30-46 are herein withdrawn. Applicant herein reserves the right to reinstate or to pursue these claims in a related divisional application, as desired, without prejudice.

Further, Applicant provisionally elects species (B) directed to Figure 2, *with traverse*. Claims 1-46 are readable on Figure 2.

Firstly, it is noted that claims 1-46 possessed unity during the international phase of the original PCT application. That is, these claims were found to be linked so as to form a single general inventive concept and were considered and examined as a whole. A copy of the related International Preliminary Examination Report is provided for the Examiner review and consideration.

Turning to the instant U.S. application, it is known that an Applicant may include in a single application only those inventions which are so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. PCT Rule 13; 37 C.F.R. §1.475; MPEP 1893.03(d). A group of inventions is considered linked to form a single general inventive concept where there is a

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technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common or corresponding special technical feature. *Id.* The expression special technical features is defined as meaning those technical features that define the contribution which each claimed invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. *Id.*

Claim groups (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) include, respectively, independent claims 1, 30, 38, 43, and 44. These independent claims recite various apparatuses and methods, however, each claim includes a container formed by interconnecting modules. As described in the specification, this common or corresponding special technical feature defines the contribution which each claimed invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. Namely, this special technical feature, as defined in the claims and throughout the specification, overcomes the deficiencies and drawbacks of the prior art.

Species (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E) illustrate various examples of the claimed invention. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed regarding claims 1, 30, 38, 43, and 44, these species are indeed linked so as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant submits that the outstanding restriction requirement is improper and may not be maintained; reconsideration and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested. Reinstatement of the withdrawn claims 30-46 and examination of all claims 1-46 is requested.

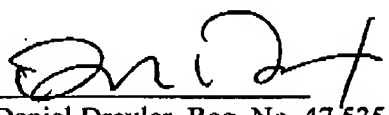
Applicant hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any extension of time required for entry and consideration of this submission.

The Office is invited to contact Applicant's attorneys at the below-listed telephone number concerning this Submission or otherwise regarding the present application.

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If there are any charges with respect to this Submission, or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicant's attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 20 September 2007

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

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NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT.

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing

(day/month/year)

02.01.2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference
P 03 090 WO

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

PCT/B 03/01618

International filing date (day/month/year)

11.03.2003

Priority date (day/month/year)

13.03.2002

Applicant

VESTAS WIND SYSTEMS A/S et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Intern

FRIST: 15-04

Name and mailing address of the International
preliminary examining authority:




European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich

Authorized Officer

Siedsma, Y



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P 03 090 WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/B 03/01616	International filing date (day/month/year) 11.03.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 13.03.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B65D88/00		
Applicant VESTAS WIND SYSTEMS AS et al.		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>		
Date of submission of the demand 29.09.2003	Date of completion of this report 02.01.2004	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523658 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 4466	Authorized Officer Lendfers, P.	



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/IB 03/01616

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17):*

Description, Pages

1-17 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-46 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/17-17/17 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 - ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 - ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 - ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 - ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.
4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages:
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.:
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/IB 03/01616

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-46
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-46
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-46
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY

International application No. PCT/IB03/01616

EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET

The invention relates to an extendable container system for transporting a wind turbine blade comprising:

- at least one module configured to be connected to other modules, the module comprising a box shaped frame and corrugated side walls attached to the frame, and
- a connecting member positioned at each end of the module for connection between the module and the other module to extend the length of the container system.

The closest prior art document appears to be DE-A-197 15 910. This document discloses a connecting system for connecting only two containers. No hint is given in this document about positioning a connecting member at each side of the module.

Document US-A-4 108 326 discloses frames which are removably coupled to the ends of a standard 20ft. intermodal container to extend it to an effective length of 40ft. The document is silent about a container module connection.

The combination of the features of each of the independent claims 1, 30, 38, 43 and 44 is neither known from, nor rendered obvious by, the available prior art. Therefore, the subject-matter of independent claims 1, 30, 38, 43 and 44 is new and inventive (Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT). As a consequence, the subject-matter of dependent claims 2 to 29, 31 to 37, 39 to 42, 45 and 46 also fulfils the requirements of novelty and inventive step. Furthermore, claims 1 to 46 are considered as susceptible of industrial application.